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50c

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What Others Say -

Coin Collectors Have Company

Recent NSM's have mentioned coin collectors who collect packaging material rather than the coins. Well, they have company in the philatelic field. The first line of an editorial in a recent issue of "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" reads, "The silly fad of collecting gum rather than stamps has brought about many peculiar and unusual situations xxx."

-Harry Larson, St. Louis, Mo.

About Newark Museum Dollar

In the October, 1964 Scrapbook (p.2678) Al Weinberg writes that "it's generally unknown that a genuine 1804 dollar is in the collection of Frank R. Liveright" in the Newark Museum. It is illustrated and described in the institution's magazine, "The Museum," in 1960 as though it were genuine. It is, however, one of the many early dollars with the date fraudulently altered to 1804. This was pointed out in Whitman's Numismatic Journal for September, 1964.

If Mr. Weinberg can appreciate a joke at his expense I might suggest that his statement is absolutely correct. It still remains "unknown" that a genuine 1804 dollar is in the Liveright collection in the Newark Museum.

—Eric P. Newman

Not Enough Zinc for Brass

In the July 1964 issue of NSM, page 1853, Light-fingered Sam asked "Mintmorgan" since when has stainless steel become magnetic? I don't know exactly when magnetic stainless steel was first made, but I will say this—I used magnetic stainless steel as far back as 1953.

Since this question has come to light there are some questions I

would like to ask. Some time ago I read that the American one-cent piece of a few years ago consisted of 95% copper, 3% zinc and 2% tin and by the majority of the people it was called a copper penny or a copper cent.

I have seen several items wherein the 1c piece was called bronze. I believe the 1c piece of a few (2-3) years ago was neither copper nor bronze. Copper, a pure metal, when alloyed with zinc becomes brass. Copper when alloyed with tin becomes bronze. Is it proper to refer to our 1c piece as a copper penny or a bronze cent, when said cent contained copper and zinc and tin?

A short time ago Uncle Sam decided tin had become too expensive so the 2% tin in our 1c piece was removed. Today the 1c piece or penny or what have you is still called a copper penny or 1c bronze piece. If the 1c piece of today contains 95% copper and 5% zinc (which makes brass), doesn't our 1c piece in reality become a 1c brass piece?

-Patsy Tomasichio, Brooklyn, N.Y.

(Ed. note: Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc but in greater proportion of zinc than 5%.)

A Bouquet for Mac

I have been a subscriber to the "Scrapbook" for three years and have never written to you before.

Now I want to have my say about coin dealers. Most dealers are honest but sometimes a collector will run across one who will take advantage of him and in this case it is sometimes hard to get adjustments made.

I wish to name a dealer who I am glad to say is far above average. His name is J. V. McDermott. It was an oversight on his part but I ordered a coin from him and was not happy with it so I sent it back and in